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**Abstract**

**Living Arrangement and Socio-Economic Well-being of the Elderly  
in East Java, Indonesia**

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With rapid population ageing in many developing countries, the issues of living arrangement and socio-economic well-being of the elderly are becoming increasingly important. The process of ageing in Indonesia, as in other Southeast Asian countries, is just beginning to accelerate. Traditionally, Javanese children have the obligation to take care of their parents, especially when parents reached retirement age. However, Javanese society is changing. Processes of social change such as urbanization, industrialization and migration can have a negative impact on the living arrangement of the elderly. This paper addresses the living arrangement of the elderly and their socio-economic well-being in the province of East Java. East Java is the province with the second oldest population in Indonesia. It is also one of the home-province of the Javanese, the largest ethnic group in Indonesia. More specifically, this paper takes into account regional disparities within the province. Three different districts (the regencies of Pacitan and Malang and the capital city of the Province, Surabaya) are selected representing a spectrum from “Old before Rich” to “Rich before Old”. Using the 2002 National Indonesian National Socio-economic Survey data set, this study provides representative figures at the district level on the pattern of living arrangement and welfare of the older persons aged 60 years and above. The socio-economic (SES) indicators include: education, employment status, monthly household expenditure, ownership of assets, and health status of the elderly.

The major findings are: the majority of the elderly still co-reside with at least a child; the urban elderly (living in Malang and Surabaya) are more likely to live with children, while the rural elderly (living in Pacitan) are just the opposite, more likely to live without children; and maintaining independent living arrangement from their children is more likely among those actively participating in the labour market and having higher monthly per capita household expenditure.